

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device for variably displaying ~~designs~~ symbols associated with an award; and

a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, ~~wherein the front display device includes~~ including:

a transparent liquid crystal display panel through which said variable display device is able to be seen; and

a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the entire of said transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light guiding plate disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate provided with an opening in an area at which the symbols on the variable display device are displayed through the transparent liquid crystal display panel ~~and a diffusion sheet for diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate to equalize the light which illuminates said liquid crystal display panel, and in said light guiding plate and diffusion sheet, transparent areas for ensuring the visibility of the variable display of said variable display device are formed, wherein~~

~~the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the diffusion sheet and the light guiding plate are arranged in a facially opposed sequential manner such that the diffusion sheet is disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate and the light guiding plate is disposed between the diffusion sheet and the variable display device.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein:

said variable display device is one or more rotatable reels ~~each having a reel band thereon~~, on which said ~~designs~~ symbols are drawn.

3. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein:
the variable display device is made up of a rotatable reel on which the symbols are drawn; and
the reel of the variable display device is disposed internally of the gaming machine so that part of an outer periphery of the reel, the part positioned at the forefront is exposed from the opening of the light guiding plate.

12. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 1, further comprising:
a diffusion sheet disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet for diffusing the light toward the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light having been guided by the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the variable display device are displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel through the opening of the light guiding plate.

13. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 1, further comprising:
a reflection plate disposed between the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the reflection plate for reflecting the light on the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the reflection plate provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the variable display device are displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel through the opening of the light guiding plate.

14. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 1, further comprising:
a diffusion sheet disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet for diffusing the light toward the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light having been guided by the light guiding plate; and
a reflection plate disposed between the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the reflection plate for reflecting the light on the transparent liquid crystal

display panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, wherein:

a respective one of the diffusion sheet and the reflection plate is provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the variable display device are displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel through the opening of the light guiding plate.

15. (New) A gaming machine comprising:

a reel on which symbols are drawn;

a liquid crystal panel disposed in front of the reel, the liquid crystal panel through which the symbols drawn on the reel are able to be seen; and

a light guiding plate disposed between the reel and the liquid crystal panel, the light guiding plate making up a backlight of the liquid crystal panel, the light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel, the light guiding plate provided with an opening serving as a display window corresponding to the reel, the opening formed in a transparent area for ensuring visibility of the symbols on the reel, the opening through which the reel is able to be displayed so that the symbols drawn on the reel are transparently displayed on the liquid crystal panel.

16. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 15, wherein:

the reel is disposed internally of the gaming machine so that part of an outer periphery of the reel, the part positioned at the forefront is exposed from the opening of the light guiding plate.

17. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 15, further comprising:

a diffusion sheet disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet for diffusing the light toward the liquid crystal panel, the light having been guided by the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the variable display device are displayed on the liquid crystal panel through the opening of the light guiding plate.

18. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 15, further comprising:
a reflection plate disposed between the light guiding plate and the reel, the reflection plate for reflecting the light on the liquid crystal panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the reflection plate provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the reel are displayed on the liquid crystal panel through the opening of the light guiding plate.

19. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 15, wherein:
a diffusion sheet disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet for diffusing the light toward the liquid crystal panel, the light having been guided by the light guiding plate; and
a reflection plate disposed between the light guiding plate and the reel, the reflection plate for reflecting the light on the liquid crystal panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, wherein:
a respective one of the diffusion sheet and the reflection plate is provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the reel are displayed on the liquid crystal panel through the opening of the light guiding plate.